

## ABSTRACT

A compound and method of using such compound is disclosed that, when administered to an animal, is capable of arresting the inflammatory response in affected tissues and facilitates the repair and maintenance of damaged tissues in the joints of vertebrates. The combination of natural physiological metabolites and herbal phytochemicals is used to treat connective tissue diseases, the composition preferably orally administered. One embodiment of the composition includes chondroitin sulfate and glucosamine that, when ingested by a vertebrate, suppresses the degradation of connective tissue by an autoimmune response. A preferred composition of the present invention includes a palatability agent, an herbal phytochemical, and a metabolic precursor that synergistically acts to increase blood circulation, thereby enhancing transport of the phytochemical and metabolic precursors to an affected site whereby deleterious inflammatory byproducts are removed.